

B2
13. (Twice Amended) A nerve regeneration tube for reconnecting nerve ends, the tube formed of a single sheet of a resorbable sidewall material comprising collagen material having a compact, smooth outer barrier surface so as to inhibit cell adhesion thereon and act as a barrier to prevent passage of cells therethrough, the sidewall of the tube further having a fibrous inner surface opposite the smooth barrier surface, said tube having an inner diameter of about 0.5-5mm, said tube having opposite ends into which ends of nerves are inserted for reconnection and regeneration of said nerves.

B3
18. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a nerve regeneration tube, comprising:
a) providing a sheet of collagen material having a compact, smooth outer barrier surface so as to inhibit cell adhesion thereon and act as a barrier to prevent passage of cells therethrough, and a fibrous surface opposite the smooth barrier surface; and
b) forming said sheet into a tube having a sidewall with said compact, smooth outer barrier surface oriented outwardly, said sidewall having an inner surface comprised of said fibrous surface opposite said smooth barrier surface;
wherein said sheet of collagen material has two opposite side edges, and the two side edges of said sheet are brought together to form said tube from said sheet;
further including a step of joining said two side edges together to form said tube from said sheet; wherein the two side edges are joined together by sutures or adhesive.

B4
22. (New) The nerve regeneration tube of claim 1, having a length of about 10-100mm.

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated October 2, 2002, claims 1-17 and 19-21 were rejected, and claim 18 was objected to, but held allowable. Applicants sincerely appreciate the indicated allowability of claim 18. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and allowance of the claims, as amended.